

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 20080 301516Z

ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 SAA-01 SES-02 /024 W

-----020163 301521Z /44

O 301505Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3262

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 20080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR EG

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC UPDATE: NABIL ELARABY AND HASSAN

- AL TUHAMI

1. AT OUR REQUEST, MFA HAS PROVIDED BIO INFORMATION ON ELARABY AND TUHAMI, BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF EGYPTIAN CAMP DAVID DELEGATION. WE HAVE ADDED TO MFA'S CURRICULUM VITAE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OF OUR OWN TO SUPPLEMENT INFO DEPT ALREADY HAS.

2. NABIL ELARABY. AMBASSADOR ELARABY, CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND TREATIES DEPARTMENT OF THE MFA, WAS BORN IN CAIRO MARCH 15, 1935. HE HOLDS A DEGREE FROM THE FACULTY OF LAW, CAIRO UNIVERSITY AND A DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND POLITICS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ROME. HE HAS LLM AND JSD DEGREES IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JURISPRUDENCE FROM NYU LAW SCHOOL.

3. ELARABY ENTERED THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1957 AND SERVED IN EGYPTIAN EMBASSIES IN ROME, KHARTOUM AND BONN BETWEEN 1957 AND 1965. IN THE MID-60'S HE WAS POSTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AS A FIRST SECRETARY IN THE EGYPTIAN MISSION WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL 1970. HE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 20080 301516Z

WAS A UNITAR ADLAI STEVENSON FELLOW IN 1968. FROM 1970 TO 1973 HE SERVED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AT FIRST WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR UN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS, AND LATER AS STAFF AIDE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER. IN 1973 HE RETURNED TO THE EGYPTIAN MISSION AT THE UN AS COUNSELOR. ACCORDING TO HIS CURRICULUM VITAE, FROM 1974 TO 1976 HE WAS A COUNSELOR TO THE UN MISSION IN GENEVA. HE WAS

PROMOTED TO AMBASSADOR IN 1976.

4. ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT RESERVED, ELARABY IS A PERSONABLE, FRIENDLY AND STRAIGHTFORWARD MAN, WHO WELCOMES DISCUSSION WITH AMERICANS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. HARD-WORKING AND INTELLIGENT, HE IS A KEY FIGURE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EGYPTIAN POLICY ON ISSUES WITH IMPORTANT LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS, SUCH AS OIL EXPLOITATION AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. LIKE MOST OF HIS COLLEAGUES, HE BELIEVES THE U.S. HAS BEEN--AND WILL BE--UNWILLING TO PRESS ISRAEL TO MAKE THE CONCESSIONS NECESSARY FOR A SETTLEMENT. HE IS READY TO SAY THIS MORE SHARPLY AND DIRECTLY THAN MOST. ELARABY HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES IN ENGLISH AND ARABIC ON LEGAL AND UN MATTERS. HE ATTAINED AMBASSADORIAL RANK AT A RELATIVELY YOUNG AGE, AND IS CONSIDERED TO BE AMONG THE BRIGHTEST LIGHTS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE IS A GOOD TENNIS PLAYER AND SAYS HE IS BRINGING HIS RACKET TO CAMP DAVID. ELARABY'S WIFE IS A GRADUATE IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING WHO IS INDEPENDENT, SELF-CONFIDENT AND SOPHISTICATED.

4. HASSAN AL TUHAMI. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AL TUHAMI WAS BORN IN APRIL 1924. HE GRADUATED FROM THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1942 AND PARTICIPATED IN THE PALESTINIAN WAR OF 1948. HE WAS ONE OF THE "FREE OFFICERS" OF THE JULY 23RD REVOLUTION AND IS ONE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 20080 301516Z

LAST OF THAT GROUP STILL IN A PROMINENT POSITION. HE SERVED IN VARIOUS OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC CAPACITIES UNDER PRESIDENT NASSER INCLUDING VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE IN 1959. BETWEEN 1963 AND 1968 HE SERVED AS EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AT THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN VIENNA. PRESIDENT SADAT, WHOM HE HAS KNOWN SINCE THE MID-1940'S, APPOINTED HIM A PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR IN NOVEMBER 1970; LATER, HE SERVED AS ONE OF THE THREE JUDGES IN THE TRIAL OF FORMER VP ALI SABRY. FROM JULY 1973 UNTIL 1976 TUHAMI WAS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ISLAMIC COUNCIL. HE WAS APPOINTED A DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER IN 1973 AND A DEPUTY PM FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN 1975. DURING THE OCTOBER WAR, WE UNDERSTAND HE WAS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DEFENSE OF PORT SAID--A MARK OF SADAT'S HIGH CONFIDENCE IN HIM. HE HOLDS THE HONORARY RANK OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL. HE ACCOMPANIED SADAT ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM AND HAS UNDERTAKEN SEVERAL SENSITIVE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ON THE PRESIDENT'S BEHALF. TUHAMI IS A DEVOUT MUSLIM WHO NEITHER SMOKES NOR DRINKS, AND IS PERHAPS SADAT'S MAIN LINK TO ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALIST GROUPS. HE IS MARRIED TO

A FINNISH NATIONAL. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH IN ADDITION TO FRENCH AND ARABIC. BY REPUTATION HE IS A STRONG NATIONALIST AND HARD BARGAINER. HE IS SOMETIMES HIGHLY EMOTIONAL AND EXCITABLE, AND CAN BE ERRATIC AND UNPREDICTABLE. A RECENT REPORT SUGGESTS HE HAS A DEGREE OF INFLUENCE ON SADAT. HE REMAINS A SHADOWY AND ELUSIVE FIGURE. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH HIM, BUT PERHAPS AMBASSADOR EILTS CAN PROVIDE FURTHER COMMENT. MATTHEWS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO20080
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780354-0364
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978085/aaaaaduc.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 89f16f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1697979
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC UPDATE: NABIL ELARABY AND HASSAN - AL TUHAMI
TAGS: PINR, PEPR, EG, US, IS, (ELARABY, NABIL), (AL TUHAMI, HASSAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/89f16f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014